

# KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BOARD NOTES

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### Volume 12, No. 4 Report of the August 11-12, 2004, Regular Meeting

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#### ***BOARD ADOPTS FIVE-YEAR PLAN OF SERVICES FOR DEAF/HARD OF HEARING, BLIND/VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND DEAF/BLIND STUDENTS***

At its August meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education adopted a five-year plan of services for deaf/hard of hearing (D/HH), blind/visually impaired (B/VI) and deaf/blind students. This plan is the result of extensive attention the Board has focused on services for these students over the past several years.

Generally, students who are D/HH, B/VI or deaf/blind have failed to achieve at the levels expected of all students in the state on the CATS assessment and these students have not experienced the same level of successful transition to postsecondary life as their non-sensory impaired peers. Eighty percent of these students in Kentucky are served in local school districts; thus, the plan is designed to impact the statewide effectiveness of services to all blind/visually impaired and deaf/hard of hearing students.

The plan continues to provide services to students at the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). Additionally, it greatly expands the role of the two schools as comprehensive statewide resources for educators and families across the state.

Key areas addressed by the five-year plan are: services to young children, curriculum and instruction at KSB and KSD, regional programs and service options for students and KSB/KSD as statewide comprehensive resource centers.

For more information on the five-year plan, contact Johnnie Grissom at (502) 564-4970 or via email at [jgrissom@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:jgrissom@kde.state.ky.us).

#### ***DISCUSSION HELD ON REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CATS, 2007 AND BEYOND***

At previous meetings, the Kentucky Board of Education and Commissioner Gene Wilhoit have engaged in several conversations about the next generation of the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) due to the need to issue a Request for Proposals

(RFP) this spring specifying the design for CATS in 2007 and beyond. In response to those conversations, Commissioner Wilhoit and Department staff have sought input from legislators, educators and constituents on issues within the current system that need to be addressed. Those issues involve updating standards; enhancing writing, arts and practical living/vocational studies assessments; adding a longitudinal component; reducing turnaround time for reports; providing mechanisms for student accountability; offering end-of-course assessments at the middle and high school levels and providing mechanisms for more student diagnostic data.

As part of his August presentation, Commissioner Wilhoit articulated the Seven Steps Forward in Assessment that have the potential to address the concerns relative to CATS voiced by legislators, educators and constituents. A timeline for completion of each of the steps was also shared with the Board. The following briefly explains the Seven Steps Forward in Assessment:

1. Content and Student Performance Standards - These standards will be revised in order to clearly articulate for educators what is important to be learned by students. The Academic Expectations, Core Content and Program of Studies will be condensed into one document. Additionally, Kentucky's standards are to be aligned with national and international standards.
2. Writing Assessment and Assessment of the Arts/Practical Living and Vocational Studies - A Writing Focus Group has been convened at the direction of the Board to recommend possible improvements to the writing assessment that will promote quality learning in the classroom through appropriate instructional strategies. Additionally, the way in which the arts and practical living/vocational studies is assessed will be analyzed in an attempt to move to a system that better assesses student understanding in these areas.
3. Longitudinal Assessment - The addition of grades 3-8 reading and mathematics tests, as required by the *No Child Left Behind Act*, will give Kentucky the ability, beginning with the 2005-06 school year, to assess growth on the same group of students over time. Recommendations will come forward to the Board from the Department on whether to include this longitudinal measure of growth in the accountability index and if so, how it could be included.
4. Turnaround Time for Reports - Schools need more immediate feedback as to student performance on state-required tests. Technology-based testing, scoring and reporting show promise to provide quicker turnaround time and immediate access to results by school and district educators. It appears that it may be possible in the near future to give the multiple-choice portion online and get immediate feedback. For the scoring of open-response items, in-state teacher scoring is being pursued to reduce turnaround time.
5. Student Accountability - If the number of forms of the CATS test could be reduced, (currently there are six different forms of the test), then it would be possible to have a number of released open-response items for on-site scoring by teachers. This option

and immediate feedback on the multiple-choice questions would enable teachers to use these results as deemed appropriate for student accountability purposes.

6. End-of-Course Assessments - The need exists for teachers to know whether or not students have mastered content well enough to move on, or whether they need additional support as they go forward. To fill this need, end-of-course assessments would be available. The goal is to make one for high school mathematics available by January 2005, followed by end-of-course assessments in the key content areas of English/language arts, science and social studies.
7. Diagnostic/Formative (Snapshot) Assessments - In addition to teachers needing to know whether or not students have mastered content at the end of a particular course, teachers need student diagnostic data along the way. Formative assessments could provide this information if these were designed for the various content areas and grade levels within the Core Content for Assessment. The Department is working toward having CATS-like assessments online for teachers to use at their discretion.

Recommendations on the various elements of the new assessment RFP will be presented to the Board at meetings that will occur from September 2004 through January 2005. The goal is to present the RFP to the Kentucky Board of Education for approval at its February 2005 meeting.

For more information on the RFP process or the Seven Steps Forward in Assessment, contact Scott Trimble at (502) 564-2256 or via email at [sttrimble@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:sttrimble@kde.state.ky.us).

### ***STATE BOARD REVIEWS CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR REFOCUSING SECONDARY EDUCATION***

In August, the Kentucky Board of Education gave the Department of Education the go-ahead to implement the elements of a conceptual framework to guide the refocusing secondary education initiative. The framework is modeled after the “Characteristics of Successful High Schools” framework presented at the Model Schools Conference, June 25-28, 2004.

Department staff shared with the Board that almost uniformly, successes among high schools seem tied to a system of curriculum, instruction and assessment that many describe as rigorous and relevant. The Rigor/Relevance Framework is one tool developed by staff of the International Center for Leadership in Education to examine curriculum, instruction and assessment. A third “R”, relationships, is added as a necessary component related to school culture, inclusiveness and treating each student as an individual within the larger community of learners.

Now that the Board has given the green light to moving forward with the framework’s implementation, Department staff will be taking the discussions to the field and to other policy making bodies. The purpose of these communications will be to solicit feedback, develop connections to existing initiatives and form a network of school systems that will engage in moving the refocusing secondary education initiative forward.

The framework document can be found on the Department's website at <http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/Kentucky+Board+of+Education/August+11-12%2c+2004+Regular+KBE+Meeting+Agenda+and+Agenda+Book+Documents.htm>.

For more information on refocusing secondary education, contact Linda Pittenger at (502) 564-4772 or via email at [lpitteng@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:lpitteng@kde.state.ky.us).

### ***STATE BOARD REVIEWS PROPOSED SECONDARY GED REGULATION***

The Kentucky Board of Education reviewed and discussed the content of a proposed regulation to establish a secondary GED program in Kentucky. The regulation is being considered in order to comply with the provisions of HB 178, passed by the 2004 General Assembly.

The American Council on Education (ACE) and the GED Testing Service (GEDTS) govern the secondary GED program and require each state to submit a detailed application to ACE and GEDTS on how Kentucky will meet the program's standards. The draft regulation is part of that application to assure ACE and GEDTS of how schools will meet the high academic, instructional and social standards required by the program if they choose to implement a secondary GED.

School districts have the option of whether to implement this program; it is not mandatory. The program is designed for a very small portion of the school population as a second chance for high school completion, but is not "in lieu of" a regular diploma. It is seen as a last choice for districts to use with those students determined to drop out.

The Board's Curriculum Committee asked Department staff to rethink certain elements of the regulation and requested it come back to the Committee for consideration of final approval at the October 6-7, 2004, meeting.

For more information on the Secondary GED draft regulation, contact Jennifer Carroll at (502) 564-4772 or via email at [jscarrol@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:jscarrol@kde.state.ky.us).

### ***KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTS NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR***

On August 6, the Kentucky Board of Education elected Keith Travis of Benton as its new chair. Travis succeeds Helen W. Mountjoy of Utica, who has served as chair for six years. Mr. Travis is Vice President of Human Resources at Murray/Calloway County Hospital in Murray and has served on the state board since 1998. Travis has served as the chair of the Board's KSB/KSD Oversight Committee since its inception.

Additionally, the Board elected Hilma Prather of Somerset as its vice chair. Ms. Prather has served on the Board since 2002 and also chairs the Assessment and Accountability Committee.

For more information on the new chair and/or vice chair, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141 or via email at [mmiller@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:mmiller@kde.state.ky.us).

***OTHER ITEMS APPROVED BY THE BOARD AT THE AUGUST MEETING WERE:***

- Minutes from the June 2-3, 2004, regular meeting
- Travel of Keith Travis, David Webb, Janice Allen, Dorie Combs and Jeff Mando to the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) conference
- Certification of Non-Public Schools for Presentation Academy High, Notre Dame Academy Elementary, St. Mark Elementary, St. Philip Elementary, St. Clement Elementary, St. Stephen Martyr Elementary, Holy Trinity Elementary, Holy Trinity Junior High, Owensboro Catholic Elementary K-3, Owensboro Catholic Elementary 4-6, St. Mary Elementary, St. Polycarp Elementary, Torah Academy, North Hardin Christian School, Holy Spirit Elementary, Most Blessed Sacrament Elementary, Immaculate Heart of Mary Elementary, Our Lady of Consolation Elementary, St. Aloysius Elementary, St. Augustine Elementary, St. Bartholomew Elementary, St. John the Apostle Elementary, St. John the Evangelist Elementary, St. Joseph Elementary, St. Julian Elementary, St. Paul Elementary, St. Thomas Elementary, Sts. Simon and Jude Elementary, Somerset Christian School and University Heights Academy
- 2004-2005 Local District Tax Rates Levied for Greenup County
- Appointment of the State Textbook Commission
- Appointment of the Kentucky Writing Program Advisory Committee
- 704 KAR 7:140, World War II Veterans' Diplomas (Final)
- District Facility Plan for Fairview Independent
- FY 2005 Kentucky Education Technology System funds expenditure plan
- Revision of Internal Audit Charter
- Request from Rockcastle County Superintendent Larry Hammond to waive the provisions of 702 KAR 5:080 to allow a service dog to accompany a student on the bus

***ITEMS REVIEWED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN AT THE AUGUST MEETING WERE:***

- KDE Employment Report
- Improving student achievement through technologically administered assessments
- 2005 Legislative Agenda of the Kentucky Board of Education
- Hearing Officer's Report
- 704 KAR 7:090, Homeless Children Education
- 702 KAR 1:001, Implementation Guidelines, Kentucky School Facilities Planning Manual
- KHSAA Title IX update
- Differentiated Compensation Pilot Status
- Update on Deficit and Watch List Districts
- Review of Kentucky's Writing Assessment
- Commissioner of Education's evaluation

***KBE MEETING DATES 2004***

<b><u>2004</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
September 7, 2004	Regular Meeting	Frankfort
October 6-7, 2004	Regular Meeting	Frankfort
November 3, 2004	Regular Meeting	Frankfort
December 8-9, 2004	Regular Meeting	Frankfort

***KBE MEETING DATES 2005***

<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
January 5, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
February 2-3, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 6-7, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
May 17-18, 2005	KBE retreat and preliminary budget discussion	*TBD
June 8-9, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 3-4, 2005	Regular meeting and commissioner's evaluation	Frankfort
September 14, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 5-6, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
November 2, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 7-8, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort

***KBE MEETING DATES 2006***

<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
January 4, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
February 1-2, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
March 8, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 5-6, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
May 10-11, 2006	KBE retreat and strategic plan discussion	*TBD
June 7-8, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
July 5, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 2-3, 2006	Regular meeting and commissioner's evaluation	Frankfort
September 6, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 4-5, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
November 1, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 6-7, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort

\*TBD – To be determined

For more information on the meeting dates, contact Mary Ann Miller at 502-564-3141 or via email at [mmiller@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:mmiller@kde.state.ky.us) or Susan Palmer at 502-564-3141 or via email at [spalmer@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:spalmer@kde.state.ky.us).

*The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the August 11-12, 2004, regular meeting conducted in the State Board Room, Capital Plaza Tower, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

*For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Policy Coordinator at (502) 564-3141.*

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